

Summary of Changes to the Shelby County Code of Ordinances Regarding Operation of Bicycles

Number	Title	Ordinance	Shelby County Code of Ordinances Article V. Bicycles	Proposed Change	Comments
Sec. 20-100	Effect of regulations.	a) It is a misdemeanor for any person to do any act forbidden or fail to perform any act required in this chapter. b) The parent of any child and the guardian of any ward shall not authorize or knowingly permit any such child or ward to violate any provisions of this chapter. c) These regulations applicable to bicycles shall apply whenever a bicycle is operated upon any street or upon any path set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles subject to those exceptions stated herein.		No Change	Identical to TN 55-8-171
Sec. 20-101	Traffic laws apply to persons riding bicycles.	Every person riding a bicycle upon a roadway shall be granted all of the rights and shall be subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle by this title, except as to special regulations in this title and except as to those provisions of this title which by their nature can have no application.		No Change	Similar to TN 55-8-172
Sec. 20-102	Removal, alteration, etc. of serial number.	It shall be unlawful for any person to willfully or maliciously remove, destroy, mutilate or alter the serial number of any bicycle frame registered pursuant to this article.		No Change	Local Only Requirement

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Sec. 20-103	Equipment—Lights and reflectors.	<p>a) Every bicycle, when in use during hours of darkness, shall be equipped with a forward-facing light upon the front which shall emit a white light visible from a distance of at least 500 feet, and with a rearward-facing red reflector upon the rear which shall be visible from 100 feet to 600 feet when directly in front of lawful lower beams of headlight or headlamps on a motor vehicle. A light emitting a red light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear may be used in addition to the red reflector.</p>	<p>Every bicycle, when in use during hours of darkness, shall be equipped with the following:</p> <p>(1) A lamp mounted on the front of either the bicycle or the operator that shall emit a white light visible from a distance of at least five hundred (500) feet to the front. A generator powered lamp may be used to meet this requirement;</p> <p>(2) a rearward-facing red reflector upon the rear of the bicycle which shall be visible from one hundred (100) feet to six hundred (600) feet when directly in front of lawful lower beams of headlight or headlamps on a motor vehicle. A light emitting a red light visible from a distance of five hundred (500) feet to the rear may be used to meet this requirement.</p>

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Sec. 20-104	Same—Brake.	Every bicycle, when operated upon streets or roadways in the county, shall be equipped with a brake which will enable the operator to make the braked wheels skid on dry, level, clean pavement. Such brake shall be maintained in good working order at all times.	Renamed title to read: "Equipment- Brake." Every bicycle shall be equipped with a brake or brakes which will enable its driver to stop the bicycle within twenty-five feet (25') from a speed of ten miles per hour (10 mph) on dry, level, clean pavement. For purposes of this Section, the drivetrain of a fixed gear bike is considered a brake provided the rider can demonstrate compliance with the braking requirements.	Renamed title to read: "Equipment- Brake." Every bicycle shall be equipped with a brake or brakes which will enable its driver to stop the bicycle within twenty-five feet (25') from a speed of ten miles per hour (10 mph) on dry, level, clean pavement. For purposes of this Section, the drivetrain of a fixed gear bike is considered a brake provided the rider can demonstrate compliance with the braking requirements.	The first sentence is identical to TN 55-8-177 B. The second sentence recognizes the ability of a trained fixed gear rider to meet the braking requirement. Similar language was recently adopted into the Washington DC bicycle code.
Sec. 20-105	Same—Bell or other signal device.	No person shall operate a bicycle on any street or roadway unless it is equipped with a bell or other device capable of giving a signal audible for a distance of at least one hundred (100) feet, except that a bicycle shall not be equipped with nor shall any person use upon a bicycle any siren or whistle.	Renamed title to read: "Equipment- Signal Devices." No bicycle shall be equipped with, nor shall any person upon a bicycle use, a siren or whistle.	Renamed title to read: "Equipment- Signal Devices." No bicycle shall be equipped with, nor shall any person upon a bicycle use, a siren or whistle.	The meaning of the restriction on a siren or whistle is clear. In many instances, a verbal signal is a more effective audible signal than a bell, such as when passing another bicycle.
Sec. 20-106	Use of permanent seat required—Carrying excess persons forbidden	a. A person propelling a bicycle shall not ride other than upon or astride a permanent and regular seat attached thereto. b. No bicycle shall be used at any time to carry more persons than the number for which it has been equipped per person in terms of seats and handlebars, with the exception of properly installed child carriers with hand and foot protection	No Change	No Change	

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Sec. 20-107	Riding on roadway	<p>a. Every person operating a bicycle upon a roadway, excluding sidewalks, shall ride in the same direction as motor-driven traffic and shall ride as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable, exercising due care when passing a standing vehicle or one proceeding in the same direction.</p>	<p>a. Any person operating a bicycle upon a roadway at less than the normal speed of traffic at the time and place and under the conditions then existing shall ride as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway, except under any of the following situations:</p> <p>(1) When overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction; (2) When preparing for a left turn at an intersection or into a private road or driveway; or (3) When reasonably necessary to avoid conditions including, but not limited to, fixed or moving objects, parked or moving vehicles, pedestrians, animals, surface hazards, or substandard width lanes that make it unsafe to continue along the right-hand curb or edge. For purposes of this section, "substandard width lane" means a lane that is too narrow for a bicycle and another vehicle to travel safely side by side within the lane.</p> <p>b. No person shall operate a bicycle on any part of any roadway where official signs have been erected and are in place indicating the prohibition of such activity.</p>	<p>Identical to TN 55-8-175 (a) (1)</p> <p>The existing b. is not needed as there is a general duty for all vehicles to obey traffic signs. The replacement represents accepted safe bicycle signaling practice that is in partial conflict with hand signal requirements for operators of motor vehicles.</p>

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		new b.	b. Hand signals for stopping, turning and changing lanes shall be given at least one time but are not required to be continuous if the bicycle is in a designated turn lane or if the operator's hands are needed for the safe operation of the bicycle. A person operating a bicycle may give a right turn signal by extending the right hand and arm horizontally	See above	See above
Sec. 20-108	Obedience to traffic-control devices.	a. Any person operating a bicycle should dismount and walk his or her bicycle as a pedestrian across an intersection when traffic-control signals are in operation to regulate the flow of traffic. b. Any person operating a bicycle shall obey the instructions of all official traffic-control devices applicable to vehicles, such as stop signs, unless otherwise directed by a police officer.	Eliminate a. and b.; replace with new language	See below	See below
Sec. 20-109	Riding on sidewalks.	New language	The rider of a bicycle approaching an intersection that may be controlled by a traffic-control signal utilizing a vehicle detection device that is inoperative due to the size of the bicycle shall, come to a full and complete stop at the intersection and, after exercising due care, may proceed with caution when it is safe to do so.	The suggested change mirrors language being considered to amend TCA 55-8-110 (see Senate Bill 3057). This is already allowed in state law for motorcycles. The existing language is redundant in light of existing road and sidewalk rules.	.
		A. Any person may operate a bicycle on a sidewalk except where official signs have been erected and are in place indicating the prohibition of such activity.	No Change		

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		B. Whenever any person is riding a bicycle upon a sidewalk, such person shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian or operator of sidewalk-type vehicles, such as tricycles, and shall give an audible signal before overtaking and passing such pedestrian or operator.		
Sec. 20-110	To be ridden in single file.	Every person, when operating a bicycle upon the streets or roadways in the county, shall ride such bicycle in single file only and at no time shall bicycles be operated two or more abreast.	Rename title to read "Multiple riders". Persons riding bicycles upon a roadway shall not ride more than two (2) abreast except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles. Persons riding two (2) abreast shall not impede the normal and reasonable movement of traffic and, on a laned roadway, shall ride within a single lane.	This is identical to TN 55-8-175 (b) (1). When riding with a group, single file riding presents more dangers to the group than riding two abreast. Lengthening the pack can cause confusion for automobile drivers. Riding two abreast increases visibility of cyclists and allows for better verbal communication.
Sec. 20-111	Clinging to moving vehicles.	It is unlawful for any person riding upon a bicycle to cling or attach himself or herself or his or her bicycle to any other moving vehicle upon a street or roadway.	No Change	
Sec. 20-112	Towing other vehicles.	The operator of a bicycle shall not tow or draw any coaster, sled, person on roller skates, toy vehicles or similar vehicle.	The operator of a bicycle shall not tow or draw any coaster, sled, person on roller skates, toy vehicles or similar vehicle. The provisions of this section shall not be construed to prohibit the attachment of a bicycle trailer or bicycle semitrailer to a bicycle if such trailer or semitrailer is designed specifically for such	This allows for trailers which are explicitly made for bicycles and repeats language found in TN 55-8-174 (b).
Sec. 20-113	Acrobatic and unicycle riding.	a. No person shall remove both hands from the handlebars or both feet from the pedals of a bicycle while riding on any roadway or sidewalk. Acrobatic or fancy bicycle riding in roadway or on sidewalk is prohibited	Rename title to read "Carrying articles on bicycles." No person operating a bicycle shall carry any package, bundle or article that prevents the driver from keeping at least one hand upon the handlebars	Identical to TCA 55-8-176. A prohibition on 'fancy' riding is unenforceable. The general rules of the road already require maintaining control. The

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		b. A unicycle (one-wheeled) device shall not be ridden in the roadway, but may be operated upon a sidewalk, except as where otherwise lawfully provided.	Proposed Change <i>(+/-) from current version</i>	suggested language prohibits an unsafe practice that is unique to bicycle operation.